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PRESS RELEASE

On 21st September 2020, Sahitya Akademi organized an online condolence meeting in memory of eminent scholar, distinguished art historian, archaeologist and writer, Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan.

Several eminent writers and scholars associated with her paid rich tributes to Kapila Vatsyayan.

Smt. Ajeet Cour, Punjabi writer mentioned that it is a loss to whole Indian Cultural World as Kapila ji was an encyclopaedia of Indian Culture. Eminent writer and academician, Prof. Harish Trivedi mentioned about her knowledge and wonderful capabilities with reference to her works on Geeta Govindam and Natya Shastra which are unparalleled. Former Secretary (Culture) Sri J. Veeraraghavan, remembered Kapila ji for her work to discover different Ayaams. Sri Uttam Pacharne, Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi paying tribute to her said she was the greatest critic of Indian Culture. Former Director of IIC, Ms. Kavita Sharma recalling her association with Kapila ji mentioned that she always wanted to achieve totality in her work. Many institutions feeling orphan after her demise.

Former Governor of Sikkim, Sri Balmiki Prasad Singh paid tributes to Kapila ji and stated that she was a towering personality of art and literature. She also established many important institutions. She was a true lover of Indian Culture Heritage. Famous Sanskrit scholar and art director, Dr. Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi described her an era in herself and her vast knowledge was without limits. She established Indian *Chintan* and *Memansa* on world forever. Continuing with contemporary scholars, she also established many international level institutions.


Member Secretary of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi remembered the time he spent with her and said she was a great scholar who tried to bring all art forms on a single dais. She herself was like a Saraswati whose knowledge and intellectuality needs to be respected every time. Famous Sanskrit writer, Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi remembering his first meeting with her in 1971 during World Sanskrit Sammelan and said Kapilaji was widely praised for Jayadev's *Geeta Govindam* in different Indian Dance Art forms. How one can achieve the *Gyan* while celebrating life can only be learnt from her. Her efforts to preserve the great Indian Cultural Heritage will always be remembered. Smt. Prema Nanda Kumar, distinguished writer and scholar described Kapila ji as *Mahasaraswati* and said she was always ready to cooperate and contribute for spreading Indian Culture.

Sahitya Akademi's former Secretary, Prof. Indranath Choudhary while remembering her anthology in performing arts, drama and literature said she represented era of revival of all forms of art. She always commented on papers read in various seminars and suggested to them for more effectiveness. Prof. Indranath Choudhary also mentioned that the book on Bharat Natya Shastra was written by Kapila ji. Prof. Anvita Abbi working for the conservation of tribal dialects and languages while remembering Kapila ji said that she was an example of knowledge and erudition. We are feeling that an era has come to an end. Recalling various seminars organized with her, she was always deeply concerned to understand the language and its literature and its linkage to local traditions. Famous poet and former President of Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari in his condolence message said that a great void has been created in Indian Art and Culture field. While remembering her *Vaidhyapurn* status, he said that she was a great scholar always brought Indian culture alive. Famous English writer, Prof. Malashri Lal while mentioning her work on *Geeta Govindam* said that during performance in Darbhanga, she was enlightened with her vast knowledge. Sukrita Paul Kumar, a famous writer remembered her as her second mother said that her achievements were not possible without scholarly knowledge. She also mentioned that she always praised the suggestions and welcomed knowledge. She is not with us today but her vision will always be a path for us.

Eminent Educationist, Chander Mohan called her a role model of Indian culture who created different forms for discussion. Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Madhav Kaushik said that she was an undeclared ambassador of Indian culture. She herself was an institution who made awareness and sympathy about politics and culture. He mentioned about her work on compilation of Vasudevsharan Aggarwala in Hindi and English showed how much she truly respected her teachers. The eminent dancer Sonal Mansingh in her condolence message to Sahitya Akademi said that Kapila ji was an important face of Indian Art forms and was always worked a bridge between the Government and the artisans. She created many important art institutions in India. Kapila ji will be loved and remembered by Indians who love India.

In the beginning, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi while offering condolences on behalf of Sahitya Akademi said she created a group of researchers who designed a platform for the development of various art forms. He called Kapila Vatsyayanji a treasure of knowledge and remembered her love, affection and cooperation towards Sahitya Akademi.

Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi coordinated the meeting.


(K. Sreenivasarao)